DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0689/177748.1 **PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Raman Chandrasekar, James Charles Finger, II, Sally K. Salas and Eric Benjamin Watson

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned **Group Art Unit:** Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith **Examiner:** Not Yet Assigned

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A SEARCH AND A BROWSE ON A QUERY

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL695382459US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: January 3, 2002

Commissionerfor Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend second claim 13-26 to read as claims 14-27, as follows:

14. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said nodes comprise categories.

15. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said nodes comprise concepts.

16. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the further comprising receiving at least two links for broaden nodes, said broaden nodes having a parent- child relationship with one another wherein one of said broaden nodes has a relationship to the search term and wherein the other one of said broaden nodes has a parent relationship to the one of said broaden nodes whereby the user may select one of said broaden nodes to display at least one web page related to the selected broaden nodes.

17. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the parent-child relationship is such that the parent node comprises web pages having a broader scope than the search term.

18. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the web pages are maintained by a web site.

19. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the web site is part of an intranet.

20. The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the web site is part of the Internet.

21. A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions for carrying out the method recited in claim 13.

22. A system for locating web sites in a network, comprising:

a server computer having a directory of nodes wherein at least one node contains a plurality of web sites related to a first concept and a category related to the first concept and wherein the nodes are arranged in a hierarchical order such that a node having a concept narrower than the first concept is lower in the hierarchy and a node having a concept broader than the first concepts is higher in the hierarchy;

a client computer in communication with the server computer wherein when the client computer communicates a search term related to the at least one node so that the client computer receives the plurality of web pages and the category related to the at least one node.

23. The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the network is an intranet.

24. The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the network is an Internet.

25. The system as recited in claim 22 comprising a second node wherein the second node is broader in concept than the at least one node.

26. The system as recited in claim 22 comprising a second node wherein the second node is narrower in concept that the at least one node.

27. The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the hierarchical order is in the form of a directed graph.

REMARKS

Please enter this amendment prior to examination of the application.

CONCLUSION

Early consideration and allowance of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Date: January 3, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend second claim 13-26 to read as claims 14-27, as follows:

14.[13.] The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said nodes comprise categories.

15.[14.] The method as recited in claim 13 wherein said nodes comprise concepts.

16.[15.] The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the further comprising receiving at least two links for broaden nodes, said broaden nodes having a parent-child relationship with one another wherein one of said broaden nodes has a relationship to the search term and wherein the other one of said broaden nodes has a parent relationship to the one of said broaden nodes whereby the user may select one of said broaden nodes to display at least one web page related to the selected broaden nodes.

17.[16.] The method as recited in claim 16[15] wherein the parent-child relationship is such that the parent node comprises web pages having a broader scope than the search term.

18. [17.] The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the web pages are maintained by a web site.

19.[18.] The method as recited in claim 18[17] wherein the web site is part of an intranet.

20.[19.] The method as recited in claim 18[17] wherein the web site is part of the Internet.

21.[20.] A computer-readable medium bearing computer-readable instructions for carrying out the method recited in claim 13.

22.[21.] A system for locating web sites in a network, comprising:

a server computer having a directory of nodes wherein at least one node contains a plurality of web sites related to a first concept and a category related to the first concept and wherein the nodes are arranged in a hierarchical order such that a node having a concept narrower than the first concept is lower in the hierarchy and a node having a concept broader than the first concepts is higher in the hierarchy;

a client computer in communication with the server computer wherein when the client computer communicates a search term related to the at least one node so that the client computer receives the plurality of web pages and the category related to the at least one node.

23.[22.] The system as recited in claim 22[21] wherein the network is an intranet.

24.[23.] The system as recited in claim 22[21] wherein the network is an Internet.

25.[24.] The system as recited in claim 22[21] comprising a second node wherein the second node is broader in concept than the at least one node.

26.[25.] The system as recited in claim 22[21] comprising a second node wherein the second node is narrower in concept that the at least one node.

27.[26.] The system as recited in claim 22[21] wherein the hierarchical order is in the form of a directed graph.